

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING May 4, 2023 – MINUTES

Committee Members

Present

Lora Taylor, Committee
Chair
Ronnie Browning
Debbie Carlisle
Bill Coorsh
Kyle Cox
Mary Durham, Council
Chair
Erica Brown, HHSC
Nina Zuna, UT-CDS
Sean Jackson, DRTx
Meagan Orsag, A&M CDD
Angie Panzica
Michael Peace
Eric Shahid
Kim Torres, Council Vice-
Chair

Guests Present

Brynn Biggs
Dylan Bricker
Cherri Carty
Christiane Garcia
Hannah Gill
Kenny Hammond
Ryan Hammond
Stephanie Haechten
Jonathan Jardine
Norman Kieke
Linda Litzinger
Rebecca Lopez
Marty Markgraf
Cordelia Mueller Daigle
Susan Peace
Christine Reyes
Lisa Shelley
Jennifer Toon

Regional Coordinators

Present

Rosa Guel

Staff Members Present

Kai Brewer
Scott Daigle
Lauren Gerken
Sabrina Gonzalez
Linda Logan
Mary Rochford
Brianna TenBrink
Koren Vogel

Call to Order

The Public Policy Committee of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities convened on Thursday, May 4, 2023, at the at the Drury Plaza Hotel San Antonio North Stone Oak, 823 N Loop 1604 E, San Antonio, TX 78232 as well as virtually using the Zoom platform. Committee Chair Lora Taylor called the meeting to order at 1:56 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Introductions

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. Public Comments

Public comment was provided by Norman Kieke of the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities, who discussed the group's 2024-2025 Policy Recommendations Report to the 88th Texas Legislature.

3. Consideration of Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the February 9, 2023, Public Policy Committee meeting and no additions or corrections were noted.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the February 9, 2023, Public Policy Committee meeting.

MADE BY: Debbie Carlisle

SECOND: Michael Peace

The motion **passed** without opposition. Kim Torres abstained.

4. **Chair's Remarks**

A. Member Absences: Chair Taylor noted that there were no absences.

B. Chair's Quarterly Activities: Taylor discussed her activities, including legislative testimony on House Bill 1805 regarding the Texas Compassionate Use Program, participation in the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities' Raise Your Voice calls, and outreach to her representative's office.

5. **Member's Quarterly Activities Report**

Committee members provided updates from the previous quarter regarding involvement in advocacy and other activities.

6. **Presentation: Eva's Heroes**

Committee Member Debbie Carlisle introduced Christiane Garcia, Executive Director of Eva's Heroes. Garcia provided an overview of the San Antonio-based organization, which is dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals with intellectual special needs ages 14 and older. Additional speakers from the group included Marty Markgraf and Lisa Shelley. Following the presentation, the Committee asked questions of the group.

7. **Update on the 88th Texas Legislative Session**

TCDD Public Policy Director Scott Daigle provided an update to the Committee on disability-related bills that have been progressing at the legislature this session.

8. **State and Federal Policy Update**

The TCDD Policy staff provided updates regarding the end of the federal Public Health Emergency on May 11, as well as the White House's recent executive orders to expand access to affordable, high-quality care, and provide support for care workers and family caregivers.

9. **Public Input on Committee Discussion**

No public input was provided.

10. **Future Agenda Items**

Committee Member Kyle Cox discussed the monopoly that two companies hold over the motorized wheelchair industry, and the impacts that has on people that utilize the devices.

11. **Other Discussion Items**

No other items were discussed.

Adjourn

Committee Chair Taylor adjourned the Public Policy Committee at 4:55 p.m.

Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council Date